MONTEREY NEWS

August 2010
VOLUME XL · Number 8

The Monterey Community gathered on the Meetinghouse steps in 1948 during a visit by Massachusetts Governor Robert Bradford. ??? indicates unidentified person; (?) indicates unknown first name. Readers who can identify any of the unidentified people are urged to send names to the editor. Front row (from left): Earl F. Adams on Topper, Pamela Gilchrist, James Mcdarby, Billy Gilchrist, Barbara Amstead, Sandra McDarbv, Carole Lyman, Ann Marie Leuchs, Leslie Ward, Annamarie Steinborn, Culver Stevens, Elerv G. Heath, ? Stedman, Robert Frost, and Mrs. Harley Lutz on Misty. 2nd row: Wallace Tryon. Gov. Robt. Bradford, Raymond Ward, Mary Ward, Andrew Hall, Rep. Heselton. 3rd row: ??? Parker Harmon, Mr. Shaw, Nina Tryon, Frances Miner. Grace Miner, Beatrice Phillips, Margeurite Tryon, Alice Everitt, Emma Heath, ???, ???, Eleanor Goodyear, ???. 4th row: ???, (?) Button, Mrs. Shaw?, ???, Miss Spurling, Julius Miner. Mrs. Richard Bidwell, Mrs. Taggart, Lester Miner, Marjorie Mclaughlin, Adria Hoyt, Agnes Gould. Back Row"Budge" Button, C.C.Kinne, Wellington Dutton, Kenneth Heath, Robt. Hebert, Robt. Gardiner, Lulu Heath, Amy Ehoe, Jared Thomson, Newman Abercrombie, Pat Hebert. (Photo courtesy Linda Thorpe)

The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Highway and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that the salt shed is finished and ready to go. This should save the town a lot of money.

The Board asked Forbes to put a sign on the town hall building pointing to the new water fountain—a lot of people don't know it's there.

Denise Andrus and Jon Sylbert are devising a new sign for the Swap Shack at the transfer station explaining what should be left there and what shouldn't. The Select Board mentioned issues with the current clothing bin, and agreed that if it can't be serviced on a regular basis another company should take over. Jules Dahlman feels that someone should be paid to manage the Swap Shack. Although a senior citizen could get tax credits for this job, Jules is worried that a senior may not be able to handle the heavy lifting required. He suggested that a line item be added to the budget at the next May's annual town meeting.

Although Brown Oil did not participate in the county bid for gasoline, they will still deliver to Monterey at a marked-up rate. Nobody bid on the county gasoline. Lipton won the county bid for fuel oil and diesel.

The cleanup work on the guardrails was to be finished by the end of July.

The Board and Forbes discussed the air conditioning in the Town Hall. Not all offices have air conditioning. The Board asked Maynard to research what would be involved in installing central air conditioning.

Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert met with the group that has been trying to build a second basketball court in Greene Park to be named Jamie's Court, in memory of Jamie Bogdanoff. The group has given up on building a second court and is now hoping to resurface the existing one, to put in new hoops, and to install barricades so that people can't drive on it. This approach will be less expensive for the town and less time consuming.

Dog Matters

The Select Board asked Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissae Noe to check with Town Counsel regarding appointing the Police Chief as the Animal Control Officer, because the Board was unclear about the legality of having the Police Chief as the ACO; also unclear is how the two proposed salaries should be handled and whether the ACO salary should be combined with the police expenses budget. It was confirmed that the ACO position falls under the purview of the Select Board and not the Board of Health, but no appointment will be made until the Town Counsel's written opinion is received. In the meantime, the Police Department is handling the calls.

Jules Dahlman said that the future dog park, which was funded in May's town meeting, should not be considered a town park. Dennis Downing and Charles Ferris attended a later meeting, requesting that the Select Board hold a special town meeting to amend the bylaws to allow dogs in specific town parks (namely, the Wilson McLaughlin property). Their position is that the Park Commission doesn't administer the Wilson McLaughlin property, which therefore isn't a town park and isn't subject to the ban on dogs in town parks.

The opinion of Town Counsel and the Building Commissioner is that 1) an additional special permit is required, because the original special permit for the Wilson McLaughlin property only allows for a Community Center and a Community Garden, and 2) a change/amendment to the town's bylaws is required to allow dos in certain parks if that is the will of the town. Jon Sylbert suggested that the dog park committee apply for the special permit first. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart felt that the town bylaws really

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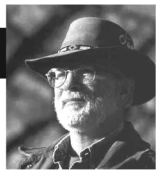

One of the most popular and durable guitarist/singers on the folk music scene today.

didn't apply to this particular property, and Board member Scott Jenssen suggested researching where the bylaw comes from (the Park Commission, etc.) and what the intention is. The Board did not agree to have a special town meeting, but will write a letter to Town Counsel asking about the bylaw wording, and requested that the Park Commission to attend a future Board meeting.

Police Blotter

- Trespass order, Chestnut Hill, issued by Lenox Police Dept.
- Abandoned 911, Camp Half Moon Road; phone problems
- Assisted State Police with intoxicated person
- Domestic call, Chestnut Hill
- Found a dog, Art School Road
- Tree down, Hupi Road
- False alarm, Main Road

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus's yearly contract was renewed.

Finance Matters

The Finance Committee presented a revised job description for Donald Torrico, Building Commissioner. The committee also reviewed the year-end budget, questioning several overages to the budgeted amount, especially some expenses of Mr. Torrico's and a large overage for Fire Department training expenses. It was decided to contact both Mr. Torrico and Maynard Forbes for explanations for the overrides in their budget.

The Select Board determined that they would make an effort to deal with unusual expenses during the year, so that they are not faced with them at year's end (although this is difficult for a variety of reasons).

Courtesy Maynard Forbes

Monterey's new salt shed at town garage.

This and That

Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert and Director of Operations Maynard Forbes met at the Monterey School with the building and grounds subcommittee of the district school committee to determine what needs to be done to the building so that it can be open for school this fall. The subcommittee endorsed a series of minor repairs and upgrades—the first maintenance the building has received in many years.

Fire Chief Ray Tryon met with the Select Board in executive session to discuss his retirement and compliance with any general or special law requirements.

Deborah Mielke and Mark Amstead met in executive session with the Select Board regarding the purchase, exchange, or lease of real estate.

The Select Board appointed Laurie Hils as the District Veteran's Agent for a one year term.

The Monterey Library has new hours on Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in addition to their other regular hours, which are Mondays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Tuesdays, 9:30 am to noon; Wednesdays, 3:00 to 5:00 pm; Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 pm; and Saturdays, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm..

The following Town Boards and Committees still have vacancies. Any residents willing to serve should send letters of interest by email to townmont@verizon.net, or by regular mail to Select Board of Selectmen, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

- Employee Compensation Committee: one open seat, one-year term
- Historical Commission: two open seats, three-year terms
- Park Commission: one open seat, two-year term
- Memorial Day Committee
- Veteran's Memorial Committee: one open seat, two-year term

Stanley Ross has been appointed as the Finance Committee Representative to

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the Employee Compensation Committee for a one-year term. The Board also appointed Alan R. DeVerry as the Electrical Inspector for two years, on the recommendation of Building Commissioner Donald Torrico, effective August 1, 2010.

Mr. Torrico also sent a memo stating how the office will be run during his upcoming vacation. He will be monitoring and responding to his phone messages.

Sarah Hudson from Tyringham attended a Board meeting to request that Monterey support obtaining state funds for repairs to the Lee portion of Tyringham Road. The repairs will cost $5.7 million dollars, and Lee is in competition with several other towns for state money, and is not on the top of the list.

The Select Board set the requirements for one-day special-event alcohol permits: A letter must be sent to the Board with the event details, financial arrangements, who will be controlling the alcohol, and whether the event is nonprofit or moneymaking. Nonprofits must show proof of status. The fee is $25. The Board will review applications and decide whether or not to approve.

The annual second homeowners' meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, August 7, at 9:30 am.

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Saturday, August 15

9:00 to 11:00 am
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Town Beach Events

2:00 to 5:00 pm
Games, Sandcastles, Face Painting, Motorboat Rides, Kayak Rides, and more!

5:00 to 5:45 pm
Roger the Jester!

5:45 to 7:00 pm
BYO Family Picnic
(No Potluck Dinner this year)
Please help us by taking your garbage with you at the end of the day.

7:30 p.m.
David Grover & the Big Bear Band
Back for a sixth year by popular demand!
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This year The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) brings you LakeFest with the support (financial, emotional and physical) of our Town of Monterey.

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Realtor

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No Potluck at LakeFest 2010: BYO Picnic

On Saturday, August 14, the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) and the Town of Monterey bring you … (FANFARE) … LakeFest 2010. (See adjacent schedule.)

This year we're trying something new. Instead of the potluck dinner, we're asking all to bring their own picnic. The reasons for this are: 1) Potluck dinners gave birth to some of the longest lines seen in the Berkshires, including the restroom lines at Tanglewood during intermission when James Taylor performs. (Whew!) 2) While those at the front of the potluck lines piled their plates high with sumptuous selections, those at the end of the line often had a choice of pasta salad and pasta salad. Or, pasta salad. 3) Since ingredients of offerings were not listed, we were concerned about allergic reactions and possible lawsuits that could put the LGA steering committee in prison for life. Or longer.

So bring your own picnic. Anyway, who cooks better than you!

— Hy Rosen

Maureen Banner

Monterberry festival postplanning meeting of Monterey Cultural Council: (l–r) Roz Halberstadter, Wendy Jensen, John Heffernan, Laurily Epstein, Kit Patten. Not shown: Susan Johnson, Kathryn Roberts, Diana Deacon, Lynne Leavitt, Maureen Banner.

Mushrooms at the Meetinghouse Aug. 21

The Monterey Cultural Council is sponsoring a presentation on "Mushrooms of the Northeast" on Saturday, August 21, at 1:00 pm in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement. The event is free and all are welcome.

Naturalist John Root will narrate his Power Point presentation, which includes habitats, seasons of availability, and identifying characteristics of both edible and poisonous species of mushrooms. John will answer questions and provide illustrated pamphlets with guidelines for safe foraging, descriptions of select species, and references for further study.

This program is brought to you by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, (a state agency).

For information contact: John Heffernan, jeh111@juno.com, 413-644-9235, or John Root, jroot@comcast.net.

Broadband Update: Progress!

A great deal of progress has been made on the issue of universal high-speed internet access over the past month. The proposed WiredWest community-owned, universal, fiber-to-the-home network in Western Massachusetts has taken a big step forward.

First off, the WiredWest article on 45 town warrants (including Monterey) passed in every single town—unanimously in most. Two additional towns, Egremont and Lanesborough, also joined by Select Board action, bringing the total towns involved in the WiredWest organizational discussions to 47. You can view a map of all the participating towns on our website at www.wiredwest.net.

Representatives from the towns officially convened on June 26 for the inaugural meeting in Cummington. The vision, rationale, and basic details of the proposed network were reviewed, and the plan for next steps was discussed.

The first order of business for WiredWest is to determine the best governance structure, so that a legal entity can be approved by the towns. The research on governance options is ongoing, with the assistance of Dr. Andrew Cohill, a national broadband consultant, municipal legal support provided through grants from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Franklin County Council of Governments, and a community broadband attorney. It is expected that final recommendations will be available for discussion and approval by the participating towns in early September.

Work on several other issues, including business model assessment, potential financing, needs assessment, and network planning is also being conducted simultaneously by Dr. Cohill of Design Nine, with assistance from the WiredWest Steering Committee and other subcommittees, as well as input from legislators and other key regional stakeholders. It's estimated this first phase of broadband planning will be complete by mid-fall, and will provide the necessary information for WiredWest to seek financing.

WiredWest is pleased to have the assistance of Dr. Andrew Cohill, a broadband architect with an international reputation for his work advising large and small communities on technology and broadband issues. His firm Design Nine, offers a comprehensive array of technology advisory services, telecommunications project management, and network design assistance, and is one of a very few firms in the United States with experience in community-owned, open access broadband networks. Cohill's services were made available to WiredWest by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), whose mission is to bring ubiquitous broadband access to citizens of the Commonwealth.

In the U.S., there are about 40 community fiber networks—with many more being planned. However, it's a relatively new field, and requires knowledgeable legal expertise to navigate the process of building the organization. WiredWest has recently engaged David Shaw, of Kirton & McConkie, as project counsel. Shaw is the lead counsel for two other community-owned, open-access networks, including Utopia in Utah. He specializes in information technology, telecommunications, public utilities, contract drafting, and negotiations, and is considered one of the country's foremost legal experts on the type of network WiredWest is building. His first task will be assisting WiredWest in evaluating governance and financing options.

Middle-Mile Network Funding

Many of you have probably heard that the Commonwealth has been awarded $45.4 million in federal stimulus funding to expand broadband access. The federal grant funding will be supplemented by $26.2 million in matching funds from the Commonwealth, bringing the total investment in the project to $71.6 million. This will enable a robust *middle-mile* network to be built by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) in western and north-central Massachusetts that will

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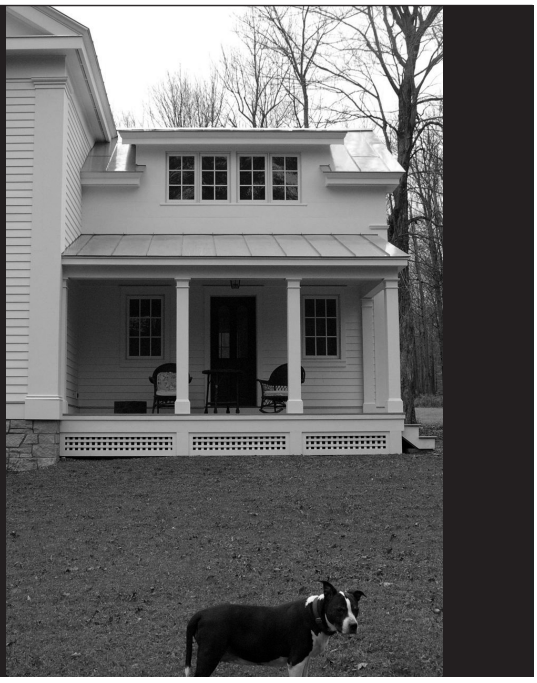

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serve 123 communities. This wholesale network will bring MBI's high-capacity fiber to the center of every town and connect western Massachusetts community anchor institutions—town halls, fire stations, and libraries—to the network. Even more importantly, it will provide the link to WiredWest's proposed *last-mile* network, enabling WiredWest to extend fiber-optic connectivity to all of our homes, businesses, and institutions in Western Massachusetts that desperately want service.

WiredWest believes universal, community-owned, fiber-optic-to-the-home connectivity is the most critical regional initiative that will enable businesses, students, citizens, organizations, and local governments, to survive and thrive in the twenty-first-century economy. To that end, the WiredWest network pledges to bring connectivity to all homes and businesses that want it in our participating towns.

We are eager to share more information as it becomes available. Further details can be found on the website, www.wiredwest.net and on WiredWest's Facebook or LinkedIn pages. You can also contact one of your town representatives, Monica Webb (monica@wiredwest.net) or Larry Klein (larryk@wiredwest.net).

Gould Farm Receives $25,000 Challenge Grant

Gould Farm is thrilled to announce that it has received a $25,000 challenge grant from a local family foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Any new or increased donations to Gould Farm received by December 31, 2010, will be used toward meeting the challenge. In these difficult economic times the foundation hopes the challenge will garner and inspire greater levels of giving to support Gould Farm's annual fund.

To make a contribution to the challenge, please call Sally Evans, director of development, at 413-528-1804 ext. 27, with your payment details, or send your contribution to Gould Farm, P.O. Box 157, Monterey, MA 01245. If mailing in a donation, please indicate that it is for the challenge grant.

Gould Farm is a nonprofit organization located on 650 acres of sustainable farmland in Monterey. The Farm's mission is to "harvest hope" for adults living with mental illness. We help individuals afflicted with conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and schizoaffective disorder begin to rebuild and regain their lives through a time-tested integrative model of care consisting of living in a supportive community environment made up of residents, staff and their families, and participation in a therapeutic work program supported by individualized clinical care.

Founded by visionaries William and Agnes Gould in 1913, Gould Farm stands as a prototype for psychiatric rehabilitation and is recognized and emulated throughout the nation. Gould Farm offers a full continuum of care, and many of the Farm's residents (known as "guests") move on to our Boston-area transitional program. During this phase of the program, individuals are supported in endeavors such as returning to school or work while receiving the full support of continued community living.

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Nancy Dinan, Chris Goldfinger and Nancy Jones welcome all to the Bidwell House Museum on first Township No. 1 Day. (Photo Barbara Palmer)

Thanks for Great Township No. 1 Day

Over 250 residents of Monterey and Tyringham and their friends came to the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, July 3, for the first Township No. 1 Day. It was a glorious, sunny, hot summer day! Thirty-seven hikers, led by Dr. Richard Greene, braved the Royal Hemlock Trail from Tyringham to Monterey to arrive in the manner of the first settlers of the town. There were fun things to do for everyone: live music by Pete and Steve Adams, Karl Finger, Peter Poirier, Joel Schick, and Moonshine Holler (Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof); face-painting and crafts led by Angel Heffernan, Ella Carlson, and Caroline Palmer; exhibits by the Monterey Historical Society and the Tyringham Historical Commission; talks and tours on colonial gardening by Ruth Green, and on the land history by Rob Hoogs; antiques appraisals by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, assisted by his wife, Joy, and Pat Yearwood; tours of the museum given by Joanna Jennings, Siobhanne Pope, and Jonah Carlson; popcorn made by Jacob Edelman and Henrik and William Palmer; cold watermelon courtesy of Marc Roberts and Ron Goldfinger; cotton candy by Caroline Palmer; cold drinks by Chris Caccamo; and volleyball, croquet, and horseshoes thanks to Rob Hoogs.

A highlight of the afternoon was the Cake and Pie Baking Contest. Entries by Monterey and Tyringham residents were judged by Betsy Andrus and Selectmen Jon Sylbert of Monterey and Al Wilcox of Tyringham. Congratulations to the winners: David Ibanez for his orange creamsicle cake and Christine Goldfinger for her blueberry pie! Of course, all who got to taste the sumptuous creations were winners too.

Thank you to everyone who made this such a successful event! In addition to the above, particular thanks go to Kathryn Roberts, chair of the committee; Valerie Zantay and her sons Gabe, David, and Josh, who kept parking under control and the games fun; Franny Huberman and Gary Shaw for their help; Joel Schick for the beautiful poster design and the organization of the musicians; Barbara Tryon, Gige O'Connell, Alice Hale, Sarah Hudson, Maggie Howard, and Nini Gilder from the historical society and commission; Chris Goldfinger, Nancy Dinan, and Nancy Jones who greeted all day; Kenn Basler for publicity and support; and numerous other kind helpers.

Beyond all our wonderful volunteers, Township No. 1 Day could not have happened without the financial support of the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils. Thank you!

And a big thank you to all of you who came to visit that day. We hope to do it again next year!

— Barbara Palmer

Monterey Historical Society Talk on Early Lighting

Rushlight Club member and New Marlborough resident Ed Klausmeyer has been collecting and studying early lighting devices for seven years now. His level of commitment to the subject has been called obsessive by some, passionate by others. He happily acknowledges both distinctions.

Join him with the Monterey Historical Society at the Monterey Church basement on Friday, August 20, at 7:00 pm, for a talk on lighting devices of pre-1860 America. Refreshments to follow.

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Free Sandisfield Arts Center Passes from Cultural Council

When the Monterey Cultural Council was in granting mode we came across the most irresistible proposal—that the Sandisfield Arts Center will admit, FREE, ten people from Monterey to each and every performance. We jumped at the opportunity, and are hoping more people will use it. It doesn't matter if you are here part-time or full-time. Just go!

When you phone 413-258-4100 or email info@sandisfieldartscenter.org, or just show up and mention the Monterey passes, you will be able to get in free due to the grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Monterey Cultural Council.

Here are the August programs:

Saturday, August 7, 8 pm:
Soprano Kathleen Callahan

Kathleen Callahan enjoys a career performing oratorio, opera and recital repertoire, most recently performing "Liebeslieder Waltzes" with the renowned piano duo Popov and Vona, and as soloist in Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" with a chamber orchestra from the Hartford Symphony. At the Arts Center Ms. Callahan will perform "Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson" by Aaron Copeland, as well as Handel, Dvorak, and Barber. Do not miss this beautiful voice! The tickets are $20 for this event (unless you are among the ten from Monterey).

Sunday, August 15, 10:30–noon:
Let's Play Scrabble

Hosted by Sandisfield author Michelle Arnot (*Crosswords for Dummies* and *Four-Letter Words*).

Saturday, August 28, 8 pm:
Bill Staines

For more than forty years Bill has traveled across North America singing his own songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folksong societies, colleges, concerts, clubs, and coffeehouses. A New Englander, Bill has become one of the most popular and durable guitarist/singers on the folk music scene today, performing nearly two hundred concerts a year. Bill has recorded twenty-six albums and his songs have been recorded by Peter, Paul and Mary, The Highwaymen, Nanci Griffith and others.

More information and directions to the Sandisfield Arts Center, go to www.sandisfieldartscenter.org or email rmkasky@verizon.net. You can also contact John Heffernan of the Monterey Cultural Council: 413-644-9235, jeh111@juno.com.

— Maureen Banner

Nutrition Talks at Library

Lela Reynolds, a longtime second-home resident of Monterey will present two lectures about nutrition in August at the Monterey Library. She is a graduate of the Institute of Integrative Nutrition and studied at the Natural Gourmet Institute. On Monday, August 16, her topic will be "Beat the Sugar Blues." The lecture will help you understand the causes of your sugar cravings and learn healthy, practical ways to deal with them. On Monday, August 23, she will talk about "Eating for Energy." You will learn what foods are best to increase your energy.

Both talks are free and will be from 7:30–9 pm.

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Monterey Library Notes

In case you missed the outside sign, the Monterey Library has added hours so we are now open six days of the week. We added new hours on Friday evenings from 5–7 pm. That means you can pick up your Friday delivery items on Friday instead of waiting until Saturday.

If you've been missing the children's programming on Saturday mornings this summer you'll have at least one more chance on Saturday, August 7, at 10:30 am, as MaryJo Maichack spins more stories and songs and keeps kids and adults entertained. Our summer programs are supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Just before MaryJo, Moxie the reading dog will be available for young readers to practice their reading skills at 10 am. If your beginning reader needs to practice a little as the summer starts moving toward a return to school Moxie has a gentle ear!

Congratulations to the Friends of the Monterey Library for gaining official nonprofit (501[c][3]) status. Mari Enoch filed the successful application, and a special thanks to Steve Schwartz for his advice along the way. Our programming is funded in part by the Friends of the Monterey Library.

And a HUGE thank you to the Friends of the Monterey Library for a very successful book sale. Friends put in more hours than ever to organize a successful sale. If you missed the big sale you can always check out the sale table in the library for good deals.

If you haven't been to the adult book discussion group in July you missed discussing *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. The August book is *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and the group will meet in the library at 7:30 pm on Monday, August 23. Check the library website (found on the town website, www.montereyma.gov) for details—the adults usually meet the last Monday of the month at 7:30 pm.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Otis Square Dance Aug. 7

The Annual Square Dance will take place in Otis on Saturday evening, August 7, at 7 pm in the Firehouse parking lot. Cliff Brodeur will be the caller, and the Housatonic Philharmonic will provide the square dance music. Everyone is invited to this FREE event. This event is cosponsored by the Otis Cultural Council and the Kiwanis Club, with a partial grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In case of rain, the dance will be moved to behind the Town Hall. Call 269-0220 for information.

SHINDIG! Sept. 4

Save the date: Saturday, September 4, 2010, for the SHINDIG—a community potluck and contradance at the Firehouse Pavilion to benefit the Monterey Community Center.

First there will be a potluck supper for all (more details about what to bring will be given in the September *Monterey News*) accompanied by music in the gazebo. After supper we'll enjoy an evening of square- and contra-dancing with our neighbors. The band will be the incomparable Konkaplunkers, Monterey's own pickup dance band, and all dances will be taught by experienced caller Joe Baker. No experience in this kind of dancing is necessary! Just come with or without a partner and be prepared for community fun.

Please join the Monterey Cultural Council and the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee in this benefit event, a fundraiser for the Monterey Community Center.

DENNIS J. DOWNING
Attorney at Law

17 Mahaiwe Street
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Greenagers Present
The Breakfast Club

The local youth organization Greenagers is hosting a screening of the 1980s classic *The Breakfast Club* at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington on Saturday, August 21, at 7 pm. Tickets are just $8 and all proceeds will go toward Greenagers' 2010–11 programming and initiatives. The event is ponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union.

The Breakfast Club, written and directed by John Hughes, was released in 1985 and has become a cult classic. The plot in brief: Five high school students—the "criminal," the "princess", the "jock," the "basketcase," and the "brain"—gather for Saturday detention and find their ideas regarding self, other, and the benefits of detention turned upside down over the course of the day. Starring Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson, and Ally Sheedy.

Come see a classic, and support Greenagers! If you are under 17, bring an adult—rated R.

Barbara Palmer

Perennial Monterey musicians Joel Schick (l) and Karl Finger entertained under the big tent at Township No. 1 Day.

Greenagers, a program of the not-for-profit Center for Peace through Culture, is a Great Barrington–based, youth-driven organization that works on community and environmental projects. Projects include, but are not limited to trail building, community gardening, nature photography, nature writing, and hiking. Currently going on: Front Lawn Food (Greenagers youth installed ten free organic veggie gardens for community members in June; bimonthly garden check-ins throughout the summer); trail building at Fountain Pond; Summer Youth Work Program (funded through BCAC and the ARRA); monthly farm visits; and more.

Please visit www.greenagers.org for more information or contact Will Conklin (director) and Samantha Halley (administrative assistant) at 413-644-9090.

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1,000 Great Places in Massachusetts Announced

Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli has announced that the following places in his district are on the list of 1,000 Great Places in Massachusetts: Knox Trail in Alford; Blandford Ski Area in Blandford; Keyston Arch Bridges, Sanderson Brook Falls in Chester; Catamount Ski Area in Egremont; Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Monument Mountain, Ski Butternut in Great Barrington; Main Street, Museum of Animation Special Effects and Art, October Mt. State Park, Prime Outlets in Lee; Berkshire Scenic Railway, Cranwell Resort Spa & Golf Club, Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio, Kennedy Park, Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Shakespeare and Company, Tanglewood, The Mount, Ventfort Hall in Lenox; Bash Bish Falls in Mt. Washington; Lower Carroll Mill, The Buggy Whip Factory, The Meeting House, Thousand Acre Swamp in New Marlborough; Spectacle Pond in Otis; Berkshire Museum Colonial Theater in Pittsfield; Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield; Berkshire Botanical Garden, Berkshire Theater Festival, Chesterwood, Ice Glen Trail, Main Street, Mission House, National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill, Norman Rockwell Museum, Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge; Tolland State Park in Tolland; Tyringham Cobble in Tyringham; Baldwin Extracts in West Stockbridge.

The official list of 1,000 Great Places was announced on July 12 at the Massachusetts State House. The list was compiled by the 1,000 Great Places Commission, created by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick in 2009. Its mission is to identify and recognize the 1,000 most truly special places in the Commonwealth, in order to celebrate pride in our history and culture, increase knowledge of our natural surroundings, and encourage tourism.

A complete list of the 1,000 Great Places can be found on the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's (MOTT) website: http://www.massvacation.com.

Romantic Garden Party at Fiddletop, August 7

The biggest benefit event of the year for the Bidwell House Museum will take place on Saturday, August 7 from 4 to 7 pm at Fiddletop, the home of William Brockman, and formerly the summer residence of violinist Zino Francescatti and conductor George Ormandy.

All friends and neighbors are invited to an afternoon of music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and good company. The silent and live auction will feature treats for everyone: skiing at Butternut, cases of wine, private yoga lessons, spa treatments, antiques, and much more. Tickets are $35 per person. For further information and reservations, please call the museum at 413-528-6888, or go to the website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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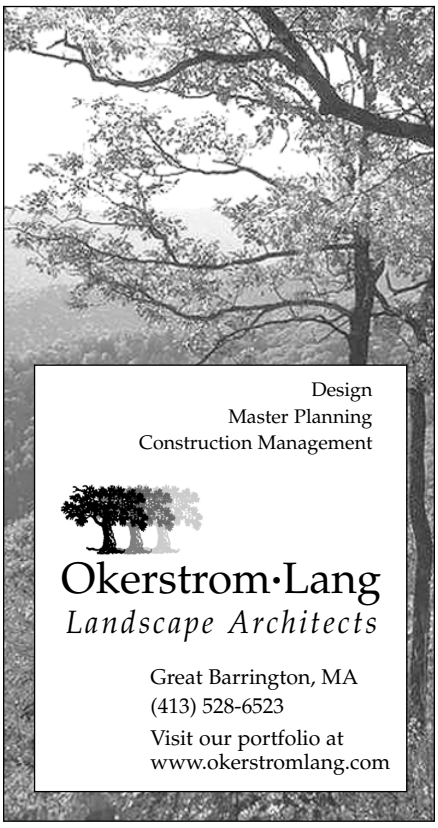

From the Meetinghouse . . .

Two months ago, as I struggled with an article for the *Monterey News*, I noticed a most obvious thing: this column is entitled "From the Meetinghouse." I'm not sure how it evolved that the Meetinghouse was given such a privileged place in the *News*. I imagine it's a by-product of the fact that the town newspaper was once the church newsletter. That was years ago, of course, when towns like Monterey were all but indistinguishable from the churches that were to be found at town centers. Citizens of the town were members of the church. There was no need to draw lines of distinction in regard to these dual roles.

Needless to say, this isn't the case anymore, and not just in Monterey. The mainline American church is a shadow of what it once was. Once to be found at the root of, or a major contributor to, most American civic institutions, the Protestant mainline is now one religious and cultural identifier among many. To find evidence of this change, just look at the Supreme Court, which for the first time ever has not a single mainline Protestant justice.

Several factors have contributed to this—too many to go into here. What is worth saying is that, after a decade or two of grief (denial, anger, and all the rest), those within the mainline church have begun to see this change as positioning us to be truer to the original call of the church. We're not to uphold the civic institutions that have merit unto themselves and can therefore uphold themselves—we're to be an alternative community yet still a part of our larger cultural context. If you're curious as to the content of this alternative, stop by some Sunday morning to see for yourself. Poetry, they say, is what's lost in translation. A joke, they say, is ruined in the explaining of it. An encounter with God the Spirit is like those: it survives what's called "apologetics" only when done by a certain few gifted writers, and I'm not one of them.

Meanwhile, as to this column, look for other writers who can sometimes be found "in the meetinghouse" and can therefore be taken to be writing "From the Meetinghouse." For this is the obvious thing I finally saw a few weeks ago as I struggled with what to write, as I wondered about what you look for in reading this (you who do), as I questioned yet again why the pastor of the church is writing as the pastor of the church in the town newspaper. This is what I saw: that this column isn't entitled "From the Pastor"; it's "From the Meetinghouse." And while we don't have lots and lots of people who can be so described—ours is a very small congregation—we certainly do have more than just me.

Moreover, though our denomination is the United Church of Christ, our tradition is Congregationalist. This means the essential aspect of this church on the corner of Tyringham and Main is the congregation. It isn't the liturgy; it isn't the hierarchy; it isn't the office of pastor and it certainly isn't the person who is the pastor; it's the membership, the congregation. This confessing collective is the conveyance of the Holy Spirit. This gathering that has come in response to some call is the way by which God is known to us. The reality of one another—all the ways we draw the best out of one another as well as all the ways we challenge, annoy, even irritate one another—is the way we experience and understand the all-too-real God whom we seek and confess as true.

All of this is a wordy way to introduce what you can expect to see under the title of this column: "From the Meetinghouse." You'll find the writing of people, or see interviewed the people, who participate in the life of the church whose physical home is the Meetinghouse. And I, for one, can't wait to see what we'll find here. We have some very interesting people who gather for worship in our pews.

— Elizabeth Goodman

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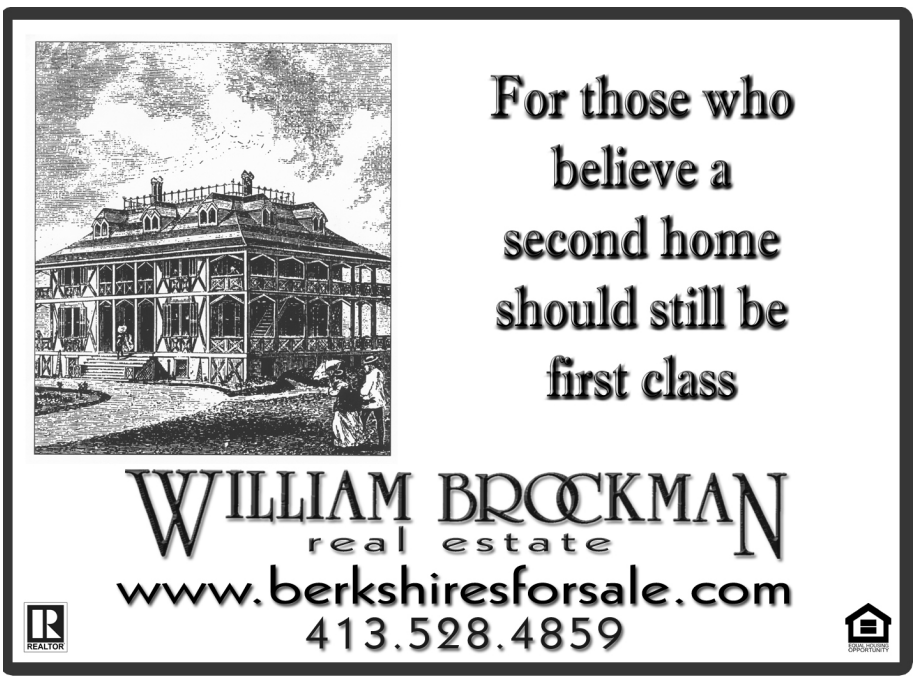
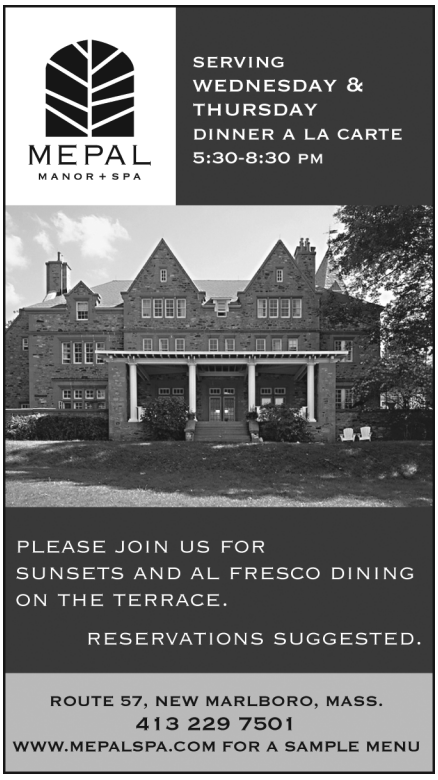




July Wildlife Report: Bears to Scarlet Tanagers

It's been a grand month in Monterey and environs for wildlife spottings, and many thanks to all who have phoned up and written in about what they've seen. Let's talk first about the moose.

Michael Guthrie and Ellen Grenadier saw their moose between Upper and Lower Spectacle Ponds on July 4 and freely acknowledge a "moment of mild panic," among other emotions perhaps larger or smaller. Congratulations to them!

After thirty-five years of life in the Monterey woods, Gary and Colta Ives have seen their first Monterey bear. This one was "casually strolling" up their driveway near New Marlborough Road on July 19. Kit Patten and Connie Wilson had a bear on the 15th, only twenty feet from their front door (Fairview Road) and measuring about four and a half feet at the shoulder. The saucy creature ignored Kit, Connie, and their cats.

Friends just over the line in Ashley Falls (Susan Strickler and Mitchie Takeuchi) report a spectacular family of skunks: a mother with four half-grown youngsters, all generously supplied with white pelage and much photographed.

Moose, photographed by John Beckwith.

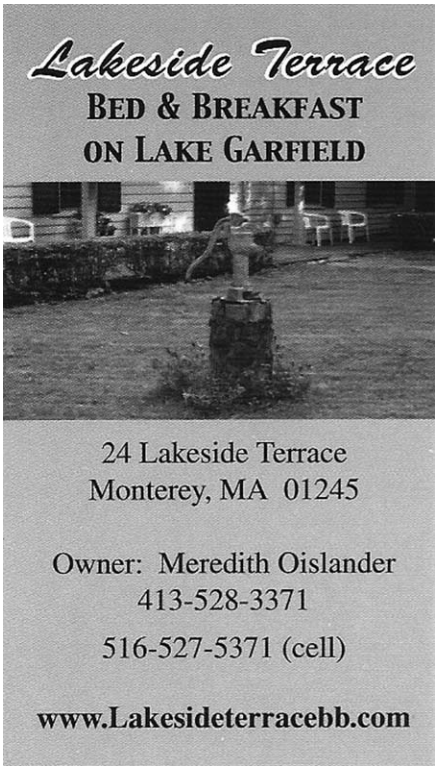
Here in Monterey on July 21, Michael and Maureen Banner report a local family of turkeys consisting of four adults, six teenagers, and seven or eight babies—a Woodstock-generation family, or maybe a cohousing community?

And, the one you've been waiting for: the scarlet tanager was reported by Chuck Pierce on Pixley Road, July 19. These striking red and black birds are creatures of the forest canopy. You won't see them scratching for worms like a robin or a chicken. Their song has been compared to that of a robin, though—a "robin with a cold." What do they actually say? "Chick . . . burr."

No wildlife report would be complete without mention of Joe Baker's fabulous little baby snapping turtle, seen in late July very far from any pond or lake. This one-inch baby was headed uphill on Joe and Bonner's farm, through a sandy area known affectionately as Little Wyoming. The turtle was headed for . . . Big Montana? We may never know.

Keep sending me your sightings.

— Bonner McAllester,
528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net.



Bruges

I think I already died in Bruges
my mouth slackening
drowned by prayers.
green river opaquely murmuring
passing the bed become my bier
carried off the contents
of the pisspot

no, this is not meant bitterly!
the laced crystals
of my life, the eased intent
disease and faltering
the metals of my mettle
and all the pus of discontent
must have flowed out of me

was I a nun?
had I a dreadful sore
between my legs?
was I obedient and brave
calm and composed
implacably Christed
in starched beliefs?

did I weep only white tears
and pray numbed by faith
over my clean freckled hands
with china-blue veins?

O death, I remember you in Bruges!
my constricted structures
bridged the truth
missed it entirely

there was a dandelion clinging
by a brick near the glooming river's edge –
I watched the school children
pass it for days
sclappering over the cobbles
laughing under the bells
in the fresh light of morning

the day I died
it diademed
its froth of wisdom
flew off with my soul

my Lord, my Lord,
I gave you nothing
waiting for your All!

— A. O. Howell

august

she frowns at the windrows
in that farm field beyond
she chastises
the disrespecting beet weeds

the sun shines so fervently today
as she bows away from its draw
bare and dry
to plump pulsating vegetables

— Katherine Tryon

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Too Much Lawn?

One great thing about hand tools is they tend to be quiet, or at least quieter than the power tool that typically could do the same job. A few examples: the teeth, as compared with the blender; the shovel, as compared with the backhoe; the bird, as compared with the airplane; the pen, as compared with the atomic bomb.

Of course, many examples come to mind. Also, quietness or noisiness might not be the most important qualities in a given tool. Some are more beautiful than others, some are bigger. Some cost more and are impossible to borrow. There is much to consider, when thinking about tools.

Lately I have been thinking about mowing—the job and the available tools. I read somewhere that we all want a mowed lawn around us because we feel safer when we have the broad view. This theory has roots in the idea that humans experienced significant evolution in parts of Africa where there were acres of natural grassy vistas, or savannahs. These broad views, the theory goes, were important not only for our famous human aesthetic needs, but also for our survival. We could see the hungry lions coming from way off and have time to scamper up a tree. (Not sure savannahs have trees.) We could also see the gazelles and plan a predatory dash in their direction, under cover of handy bits of savannah vegetation.

Even though it's been a while since some of us have had to run down a gazelle or dodge a lion, we still yearn for the vista, the mowed grass. Some of us head for Sears, credit card in hand, and come home the proud owners of a power mower, also slaves to photosynthesis. We get goggles, ear protectors, ventilators, whatever it takes to survive those hours on the mower. Lemonade, iPods, life insurance.

A few hours later we come back to life, park the machine, peel off the gear, and take a look at the savannah. Another week, another precious afternoon sacrificed to various sorts of debt and pollution. Our parents did the same thing, so it must be the way.

Ah, but who are these radicals who question the way? Who is that neighbor who mows no more? Does she buy her way out, hiring someone else to do it while she's at the golf course? Did she pave the whole yard? Is she letting the native plants come back, the thistle, the milkweed, the poplar? How will she feel one day when she looks out her window and what she sees is the close-up and detailed bough of a white pine? Will she miss her savannah then?

There is a middle road! There is "less mowing" and "quieter, greener mowing" available to the savannah lover who eschews the belching gasoline mower and all that it implies. Some folks have dug out their elderly reel-type lawn mowers. You can push these about and wind up with shorter grass. No gasoline is necessary until you have to drive it off to be sharpened, but you could do that on the same trip you were going to take anyway to the golf course or someplace. They are not completely quiet, but most converts think the reel mower is more musical than the gasoline engine.

Along this middle road, you may also spot the sickle and the scythe. Both are hand tools that can be swung about and produce shorter grass or whatever it is that's being mowed. Odds are you can learn to sharpen them yourself, which is a satisfying thing. You won't have to take them on your golf trip, which simplifies your life at least in this respect.

For me, one of the great rewards of switching to the sickle and scythe is that

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I now can choose what to cut and what not to cut. This was not so easy with the big lawnmowers. I could rationalize that way up on my high seat, wearing all my gear, I couldn't possibly be expected to consider cutting or not cutting each bit of grass or brush. No, no, gotta keep roaring along in a straight line, get the job done, get on with my important life.

With a scythe, I'm walking along, swinging it up behind me and letting it fall with a sort of sweeping motion. I'm listening to the birds, smelling the new-cut thyme and such. I see a gorgeous bouquet coming up: Black-eyed Susans! No problem to sidestep them a little and let them stay, they're so pretty. They'll still be there the next time I come out to mow and if I want to knock them down then, I will. In the meantime, if anyone comes in my driveway and looks at my mowing job and clicks their tongue, as in, "Tsk, tsk, *this* is rather ragged," well, they are right. I'm ragged and proud. This ain't no golf course. We have the lions and gazelles instead.

We may ask, "Do I have more savannah than I can keep up with by hand?" Most of us know the answer, just as we know what birds nest here and when the joe-pye weed blooms. If the answer is, "Yes, there's too much," we know how easy it is to make it a bit smaller.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Gould Farm Nurse Named Citizen of the Year

Gould Farm's Registered Nurse, Jamie Vlcek, was recently honored with the Zorbo Citizen of the Year Award for 2010 from the Berkshire County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Vlcek was nominated by fellow mental health professional Dr. Stuart Bartle, a member of the NAMI Berkshire County board of directors and also an associate at Gould Farm. In his recommendation, Bartle cited Vlcek as "an outstanding nurse at Gould Farm with a thorough knowledge of the guests' needs who knows medications thoroughly, and is invaluable in advising doctors, therapists and work team leaders." His high regard for Vlcek was echoed by others on the NAMI-BC board whose family members have been in Vlcek's care.

In a message to the honoree, NAMI-BC President Marilyn Moran said, "It is with sincere gratitude for your hard work that, on behalf of the board of directors, I congratulate you as the recipient of this year's Zorbo Award."

Vlcek said she is deeply honored and proud to receive the Zorbo Award. "It means that our mission and our name is out there and that people know what good work we do," she said of Gould Farm.

Vlcek came to Gould Farm in 1994, shortly after receiving her associate degree in nursing from Berkshire Community College. "I work independently as the sole RN and the only licensed professional on staff to coordinate the medical needs of the approximately 40 residents (called guests), who reside at Gould Farm, usually between six and 18 months," she said. The daily opportunities to create and build relationships are what initially drew Vlcek to psychiatric nursing. She is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

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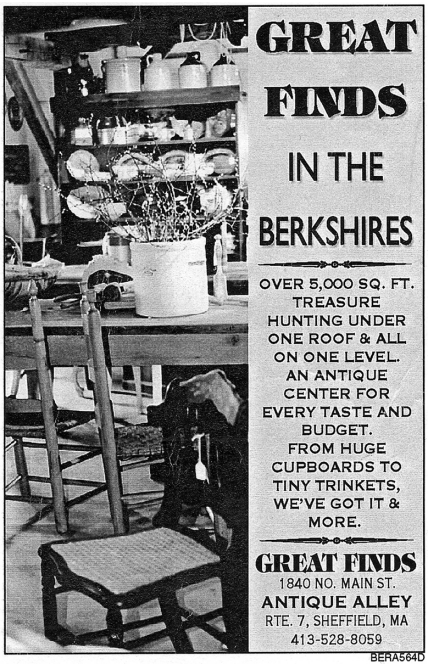
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Hatchery Donations Support Youth Programs

A partnership agreement was signed in 2006 between the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation and U. S. Fish & Wildlife in a monumental Memorandum Of Understanding that was instrumental in outlining the blueprint for the future. The hatchery can once again be celebrated at 2 pm on Sunday, August 22, at the ninth annual Lobsterfest. This lively and unique event on the picturesque mountainside setting is again organized by Hatchery Foundation board member Alan Salamon, serving as chair for the third consecutive year. Tickets are $65; call 413-528-9761.

For the third consecutive year, under the direction of board member and legal advisor Steve Schwartz, in cooperation with board president John P. Doelman, the annual fundraising letter and canvass is successfully completed; more than $7,000 was donated in each of those years by loyal hatchery friends, many of whom have a long history of financial support.

A new high plateau of youth activity recognition was also recently received from Henry Bouchard III, fishery biologist and director of our Memorandum Agreement sister facility, the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery, located in North Chittenden, Vermont. The document came to us as his "Accomplishment Report," commending The Berkshire Hatchery for "connecting people and children to nature" through our local events, such as the Konkapot River stocking, four annual fishing derbies in the hatchery pond, and more.

For the first time, this year Head Of Operations Leroy Thorpe has a U. S. Fish & Wildlife active and equivalent partner on a fulltime basis, residing on Hatchery Road. He has turned the office building into a nature classroom for youth, with live trout and salmon swimming freely on display in a giant illuminated fish tank. Jeff Mosher, from Rochester, N.Y., has the official title of Manager, Bioscience Techician, is educationally qualified to expand the existing outreach programs to more schools and camps, and doing that is only one of his many accomplishments since his arrival.

The Berkshire Hatchery was long ago endowed with a history of grassroots youth involvement by Operations Management under the Izaak Walton League Of America. This organization is still today a national and worldwide leader in youth conservation and environmental awareness. Several of their lifetime members still on our board of directors, and they have enriched our programs and engrained our objectives to enlighten younger people about the wonders of Mother Nature. How did the fish hatchery succeed in interesting so many young future volunteers and lifetime supporters after being exposed to it here? I can only surmise, with tongue in cheek, "It must be something in the water."

— George B. Emmons

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Open Letter to Some Drivers

Dear Experienced, and consequently often more Reckless, Driver (ERD),

I do not appreciate your attitude on the road. You make me nervous. You don't necessarily know this about me, but I grew up in a small New England town, and went to school in another quaint, peaceful part of the region. These are places where people stop thirty feet from crosswalks if pedestrians are in sight. Drivers in my home area, who have been driving just as long, exhibit common sense and defensive driving skills. You cannot possibly know by my license plate that I am in fact from the western part of Massachusetts; I am not from "just outside of Boston." I don't drive like I am from Boston, and I wish you would not assume that.

I do not appreciate your lack of signal, as you dart from the fast lane all the way to your exit; did they not teach you where your signal was in driver's education class? Maybe they didn't have those back then, not as many people drove like you, and those fast expensive cars did not really exist. The other alternative is that you've gotten careless and maybe a little reckless. Allow me to make the suggestion that the Garden State Parkway is nerve-wracking enough with six narrow lanes of fast traffic without you zipping in and out of the slow lanes. However, if you are going to indulge in that behavior, may I suggest letting other people know how reckless you are about to be—give them an extra moment to adjust their speed by turning on your signal.

Dear ERD, when I see your glasses in my review mirror at seventy-five miles per hour, you are simply too close to me. You may feel superior in your driving abilities, but science suggests that stopping in time to avoid rear-ending me is simply not feasible from where you're sitting. Don't tailgate me. Speaking of tailgating, chances are, there is always a lane where cars are moving faster than I am—please move over! I am not going to speed up because I can tell if you brushed your hair or not this morning. Finally, take a hint, when I gesticulate wildly in my mirrors, go away.

You may have done this for years, but there are others on the road, and unexpected occurrences; we might all be better off if you took that into account. You hate accidents and therefore waiting in miles of traffic as much as anyone—so don't tempt fate and risk causing one. Finally, in our nation's capital, there will be some people who end up driving down Constitution Ave unexpectedly without knowing what the road will do or where the one-way streets are, or which of the two signals at a given intersection is theirs. Those people thank the powers that be, or their mothers more likely, for their GPS systems, and ask that you kindly inhale and exhale once before honking.

Yours sincerely . . .

As the above hypothetical, but experienced-based, letter may suggest, I made the enlightening drive to Washington, DC, last month. I survived to tell the tale, although at several moments, I was literally a combination of white knuckled and fuming. More recently, I managed to get disoriented on the beltway and routed down 66 East onto Constitution Ave—and had a little adventure down the National Mall. Thank goodness it was Monday, July 5, and there was no rush hour. With my GPS and a growing understanding of DC, I do plan on conquering the city in the next few months, but until then, I'm going to venture out on the roads on Sunday mornings.

I just recently moved into a beautiful two-bedroom apartment, with a roommate, in southeast DC. It's a nice area, a block to the metro, a side yard with a grill and picnic table, and a place to park my car. We're setting up our life here, and another stage of my "becoming an adult" happened almost without my realizing it.

Our summer fellows in the Roosevelt national office are working on multiple projects, the national publication series is almost ready to go to the printer, our national summit in Hyde Park is well underway, and in a little over three weeks, I'll be Seattle bound to rest up and prepare for another year. Aside from the impossible heat, which seems destined to last until September, life is good.

—Tarsi Dunlop

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The Garden Angels

What a summer. The tomatoes are as tall as I am, and the squash vines will surely climb right over the house and down the other side before they are done. It's been a goal of mine for some time to become as food self-sufficient as possible, and it's still just a goal, but this summer makes me a lot more hopeful that such a thing can be done.

Sometimes I wonder what it must have been like when raising all of your own food was a necessity around here and not an option. Over the last several years I've gotten a glimpse into that world at the Bidwell House Museum. A group of volunteers, the Garden Angels, and I grow an heirloom vegetable garden on the property in the way we believe the original inhabitants would have done it. We also take care of the beautiful perennial beds that ring the Bidwell house itself.

As we have grown the flowers and food together, we have come to appreciate how essential the garden was to the Bidwells' survival. It has made the effort so much more meaningful to me to be involved with a group of people pursuing the same aim. I wanted to know how the Angels would describe their experiences as well.

Ruth Green

Lucy Bertoldi, Chris Caccamo, Christine Goldfinger

Recently I got together with some of the Garden Angels for our usual every-other-Saturday-morning coffee and bagels before we go out to work in the garden. I asked them what they got out of volunteering in the museum's gardens and how they got involved with Bidwell in the first place. Their answers made me really think about the community we have begun to form. Present on that day were Christine Goldfinger, Kathryn Roberts, Barbara Tryon, Chris Caccamo, and two new gardeners, Charles and Sydney Brandwein.

What made you want to volunteer at The Bidwell Museum in the first place?

Chris G: I love old houses and historical museums, and I figured it would be a great way to get to know this place—and it worked. I also love to garden and this seemed like a great chance to learn about colonial history from the outside as well as the inside of the house.

Barbara: I love gardening and farming too, otherwise how would I have ended up as a farmer's wife for fifty years? Here it's just for pleasure—I get to dig around in someone else's garden just for fun. I don't have that mental list, you know, of all the things that have to be done at home and I can just enjoy the time here.

Kathryn: It's true, working here is a great pleasure. In June, when we planted some of the seeds in the Heritage Garden, the soil and the sun were so warm, and we were beginning the process of growing food all over again. It's a central part of the experience for me. The garden is the soul of Bidwell, in my opinion. It's where I most appreciate what it must have been

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like to live on this land in the 1750s and what the Bidwells had to do to survive.

Sydney: This is our way of getting to know people, really. We've been contributing members of Bidwell since the beginning, and we always bring our houseguests here. Now we want to know more about it and become active members of the Bidwell community.

Chris G.: This is a wonderful way to meet people in Monterey! And you can learn about gardening in a very easy way, because you really can't do anything wrong here. Ruth is a very supportive teacher.

Kathryn: Do you know what was the most fun I've had here? That day we went through all the colonial costumes in the upstairs closet and picked out what we were going to wear for Pumpkin Fest. We even convinced Chris (Goldfinger) to read the story of Johnny Appleseed to the children in costume. You don't have that many opportunities to be silly and get entirely out of yourself the way we do here.

What do you all think we could do with the gardens that we haven't yet done?

Chris G.: We could connect Chris Caccamo's fantastic display of agricultural tools, which is on one side of the house, with the Heritage Garden itself on the other side. The garden after all shows our visitors what the Bidwells did with the tools, and the tools themselves give us an idea of how they managed to raise the food they needed. The two go together very well.

Kathryn: We have some beautiful walking trails that loop right around the house and grounds. They are perfect for mountain biking as well as walking. It is when you are actually in the woods that you begin to see the property as the Bidwells might have seen it. And the trails are not at all hard to walk. I would love to make people more aware of the opportunities we have here to get outside.

Ruth Green

Cindy Hoogs and Barbara Tryon

Ruth: The Bidwells would surely have had an orchard near their kitchen garden. We could plant a small orchard here to give visitors a sense of how the two were connected to each other as sources of food.

What would you say to anyone thinking about joining the Garden Angels?

Chris G.: This is way too much fun to miss. I'm involved in plenty of other things but I want to make time for the Angels. It's changed the way I think about my own garden as well. Look at what I did this year—one big bed with cutting flowers and one with tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and herbs. We're having a great summer eating out of our garden all the time.

Kathryn: The Garden Angels are a perfect way to give a little to the community and get back plenty in return. Ruth and Chris C. are experienced gardeners and always ready to answer anyone's questions. And I love the time we set aside for coffee and bagels before we start. We've all gotten to know each other because of these Saturday mornings and it means a lot to me.

Ruth: We want to encourage anyone and everyone to garden with us on a Saturday morning and see if you like it. If you prefer flower gardening or fruit and vegetables, there is always something interesting to do. We'll meet next on Saturday, August 14, at 8 am. Join us! It's not hard work and a great deal of fun. Hope to see you soon!

— Ruth Green

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Recipe of the Month
Franny Huberman's Blueberry Cottage Cake

Monterey cooks and food lovers are encouraged to share your favorite recipes for what we hope will be a monthly column. Send your ideas to Lisa Smyle at slysmyle@berkshire.net, and, with your help, we'll publish a new recipe every month.

Here's the Blueberry Cottage Cake recipe Franny Huberman used for the Township #1 Day cake contest (it won 2nd place ribbon).

Ingredients

1 and 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup white sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup yogurt
1 cup fresh or frozen wild or cultivated blueberries

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Measure dry ingredients into a bowl and blend with a fork. Add all other ingredients except blueberries. Mix thoroughly. Pour half of the batter into a greased, 8-inch round cake pan. Sprinkle batter with 1/2 cup blueberries. Pour the remaining half of the batter into the pan and sprinkle with other 1/2 cup blueberries. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until the top is golden brown and set. Serve warm from the oven and enjoy. For an added treat, top with buttercream or cream cheese frosting. Serves six.

Music & More August Events in New Marlborough

With summer in full swing in the Berkshires, another exciting season of Music & More is underway at the historic Meeting House in New Marlborough. The series was founded in 1992 by pianist and current director Harold Lewin.

On August 7, talented Berkshires actors Jonathan Epstein and Ariel Bock will perform short stories by local writers, including distinguished authors Ruth Reichl and Roy Blount Jr., novelists Daniel Klein and Laura Chester, and screenwriter Maria Nation. "Berkshire Shorts" is inspired by NPR's "Selected Shorts."

Closing out August, on the 28th, will be a performance of "New Voices in American Song." The event will bring together singers Paul Sperry and Katharine Dain with pianist and composer Christopher Berg. They will perform a concert of music by three of today's most highly regarded composers of American song: Tom Cipullo, Richard Hundley, and Berg himself.

On September 4, internationally renowned Chinese pianist Xuerong Zhao will make her Berkshires debut with a performance that includes music by Scarlatti, Schumann, Scriabin and Liszt.

All programs begin on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 pm. The Meeting House Gallery will be open for Music & More events and post-concert wine receptions; the gallery features a mixed media art show through August 22 followed by the 12th annual exhibition of New Marlborough artists.

For tickets, reservations, and information call 413-229-2785 or visit http://www.newmarlborough.org. The Meeting House is located on the Green in New Marlborough on Route 57, east of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Tickets cost between $10 and $25. Please inquire for ticket discount information.

Enjoy a 10 percent discount for a post-concert dinner at The Old Inn on the Green just next door (reservations required). Rated "Best in the Berkshires" by Zagat, the inn's proximity to the Meeting House makes an evening of great entertainment and fine cuisine in historic New Marlborough irresistible.

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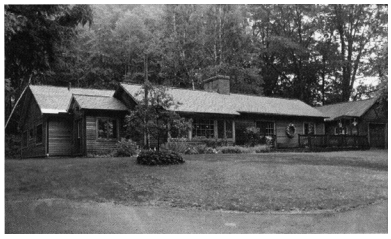

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Monterey Movie Night Aug. 7
Star Wars under the Stars

On Saturday, August 7, the Monterey Parks Department presents *Star Wars* at the second annual Monterey Movie Night in Greene Park in downtown Monterey. Bring your blankets and enjoy a family movie under the stars on a two-story state-of-the-art movie screen. Concessions will be available. The gates open at 7 pm, and the movie starts at 8 pm. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion behind the firehouse. For more information, call 413-528-1443.

Calendar

Saturday, August 7:
Second Homeowners' annual meeting with Select Board, 9:30 am, Town Hall.
Storyteller MaryJo Maichak, 10:30 am, Monterey Library. Free.
Bidwell House Garden Party, 4–7 pm, Fiddletop, Wellman Road, Monterey. $35; info 413-528-6888. See p. 12.
Monterey Movie Night, *Star Wars*, Greene Park, 8 pm. Free.
"Berkshire Shorts," stories by Berkshire authors read by Berkshire actors, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 22.
Square Dance, 7 pm, Otis Firehouse. Free. See p. 10.
Soprano Kathleen Callahan, 8 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center. Free passes available; see p. 9.
Thursday, August 12: Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall, 2–3 pm.
Sunday, August 15: Let's Play Scrabble with Michelle Arnot, 10:30 am–noon, Sandisfield Arts Center. Free passes available; see p. 9.
Monday, August 16: "Beat the Sugar Blues," talk on nutrition by Lela Reynolds, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Free. See p. 9.
Friday, August 20: Historical Society talk by Ed Klausmeyer on early lighting devices, 7 pm, Meetinghouse basement. Free. See p. 8.
Saturday, August 21: "Mushrooms of the Northeast," presentation by naturalist John Root, 1 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free. See p. 5.
Sunday, August 22: Lobsterfest, 2 pm, Berkshire Fish Hatchery. $65; 413-528-9761. See p. 18.
Monday August 23:
"Eating for Energy," talk on nutrition by Lela Reynolds, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Free. See p. 9.
Adult book discussion group, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library.
Saturday, August 28:
"New Voices in American Song," 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 22.
Folksinger Bill Staines, 8 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center. Free passes available; see p. 9.
Saturday, September 4:
SHINDIG! Community potluck and contradance, Monterey Firehouse Pavilion. See p. 10.
Concert by classical pianist Xuerong Zhao, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 22.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
June 26 – July 25

High temp. (7/7)	93°
Low temp. (7/1)	48°
Avg. high temp.	80.5°
Avg. low temp.	59.9°
Avg. temp.	70.2°
Total rainfall	2.81 in.

Rainfall occurred on 14 days.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 12, 15; George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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